

**Notice of Public Scoping
Livestock Grazing Permit Renewals**

Comment Period: open until **November 1, 2005**

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------|------------------------------|
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The White River Field Office (FO) is soliciting public comments on the following two topics: First, we would like any information you may have which would assist the FO in prioritizing land areas for the assessment of public land health standards for Colorado. Secondly, nine (9) grazing permit\leases will expire during fiscal year (FY) 2006 (10/1/05 to 9/30/06). To process the renewal of these permits/leases we would like the public to identify any issues, concerns, or resource conditions on the allotment(s) associated with the permits/leases, to assist us in prioritizing the work.

The assessment of public land health will be done on a land area basis. It is anticipated that it may take ten years or more to complete the assessment on all lands within the FO. With this notice, our objective is to solicit the public's help in identifying land areas within the FO that should be given a priority for assessing land health standards.

Once the FO receives the public comments, the staff will meet as an interdisciplinary team. Using the comments and all other available information, the team will establish the priority list of the land area(s) that will be assessed for compliance with the health standards during FY 2006.

The FO will be also be completing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and making decisions on the renewal of certain grazing permits\leases. Since the level of NEPA analysis is in part driven by the level of public interest and concern, your comments are requested relative to conditions you have observed on these allotments, and/or specific environmental concerns about the lands and/or resources found within the specific allotment. The more specific and factual your information is, the more helpful and useful it will be.

An interdisciplinary team will rank the expiring permits into high, moderate, and low priority categories based on all information available including public comments. The ranking will help determine the amount of consideration necessary and the appropriate level of NEPA documentation for reaching a decision on each grazing permit renewal. The ranking will also help to allocate resources to address concerns on a priority basis.

**THE FOLLOWING ARE LAND AREA(S) AND APPROXIMATE FEDERAL ACREAGE
WHERE HEALTH ASSESSMENTS
WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THE WHITE RIVER FIELD OFFICE DURING FY 06**

| NAME AND GENERAL LOCATION OF AREA | FEDERAL ACREAGE |
|--|------------------------|
| PICEANCE BASIN LAND AREA: ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH PERMIT RENEWALS IN TABLE BELOW (ALLOTMENT #) | 0 |
| WOLF CREEK/RED WASH LAND AREA: ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH PERMIT RENEWALS IN TABLE BELOW (ALLOTMENT # 6321, 6307, 6313) | 48,858 |
| UPPER WHITE RIVER LAND AREA: ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH PERMIT RENEWALS IN TABLE BELOW (ALLOTMENT # 6802, 6858, 6605, 6608, 6609, 6613, 6615, 6617, 6618, 6629) | 45,938 |
| DOUGLAS/CATHEDRAL LAND AREA:ALLOTMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH PERMIT RENEWALS IN TABLE ABOVE (ALLOTMENT # 6354, 6356) | 45,849 |

Permits\leases are scheduled for renewal in FY 2006 on the following grazing allotments:

| Permittee/Lessee | | Allotment Name And/Or Number | Public Land Acres | County |
|-------------------------|----------------------|---|----------------------------------|---------------|
| 0501445 | Tuttle Livestock LLC | 06321 Rock Wall Draw | 1,160 | Moffat |
| 051459 | Ron Bryant | 06356 East Douglas Creek | 36,071 | Rio Blanco |
| | | 06354 Bull Draw | 9,778 | Rio Blanco |

| | | | | |
|--------|------------------------------|---------------------|--------|-------------------|
| 051502 | Davidson Yellow Jacket Ranch | 06802 Thornburg | 497 | Moffat |
| | | 06858 Yellow Jacket | 400 | Moffat |
| 051440 | K Ranch | 06307 K Ranch | 43,242 | Moffat |
| 051433 | Wesley and Ila Sturgeon | 06313 Coal Oil | 4,456 | Rio Blanco |
| 051489 | Keystone Ranch | 06605 Keystone | 29,528 | Rio Blanco/Moffat |

| | | | | |
|--------|--------------------|------------------------------|-------|------------|
| 051417 | Buffalo Horn Ranch | 06608 South Fork Price Creek | 1,605 | Moffat |
| | | 06609 Chokecherry | 1,431 | Moffat |
| | | 06613 Upper Smith Gulch | 8,808 | Rio Blanco |
| | | 06615 Strawberry Peak | 783 | Rio Blanco |
| | | 06617 Cave Gulch | 1,728 | Rio Blanco |
| | | 06618 Cabin Gulch | 1,038 | Rio Blanco |
| 051479 | Scott Hert | 06629 Devils Hole | 120 | Rio Blanco |

Following completion of the scoping process, comments and all available information will be used by the FO interdisciplinary team to prepare a Field Office Plan. This plan will consist of two lists, the land area(s) planned for assessment, and the ranking of permits/leases to be renewed. This plan will be posted on the Internet in a subsequent notice no later than December 1, 2004.

Annually hereafter, this same process will be used. A public scoping notice will be posted on the Internet soliciting comment on identifying land areas for health assessment, and ranking grazing permit\leases up for renewal for the following fiscal year.

If you have any information or concerns, wish to be considered as an interested party on a permit or allotment, or wish to be involved in a land health assessment, please contact the individual at the address above to be put on a mailing list. If you do not have specific comments at this time but have questions about the land areas or allotments listed in this notice, contact the individual at the address above.

